

WARD

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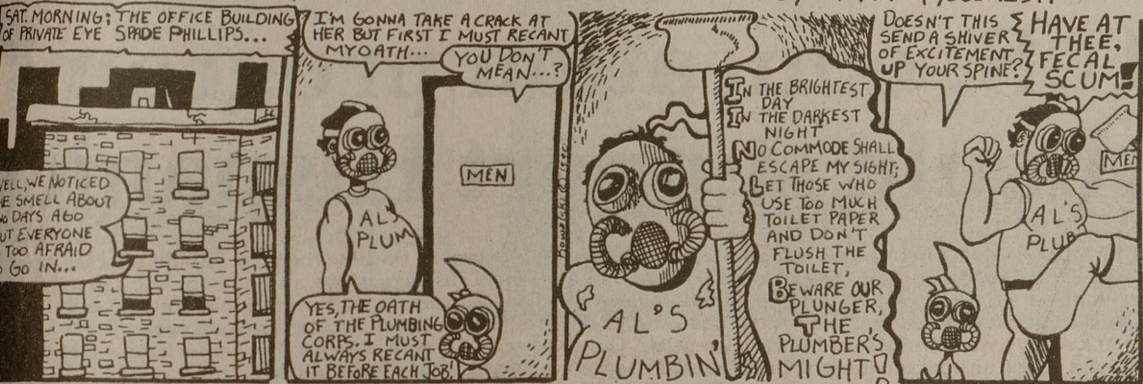
WALDO

By KEVIN THOMAS



SPADE PHILLIPS, P.I.

By Matt Kowalski



Senate

(Continued from page 1)

the Status of Women plans on meeting later this week to revise the resolution again for discussion at the May Faculty Senate meeting.

"I'm not sure about any specifics," she said. "We'll take a general look and try and cast the resolution in a more positive light."

In other business, the Faculty Senate:

- Approved a resolution stating that qualifications needed for managerial and administrative positions be worded to emphasize knowledge, skills and abilities, rather than prior appointments. The resolution, authored by the Committee on the Status of Women, was intended to assist women applying for managerial positions.

- Passed undergraduate curriculum changes adding an animal science class; South African history class; two speech communication classes; three anthropology classes; a silvics class; a horticulture class; and two astronomy courses.

- Discussed a report from the Planning Committee on the possible improvement of classroom audio-visual facilities.

All resolutions approved by the Senate must be approved by President Mobley before being instituted.

Snake lady collects hides to make curios

MARYNEAL (AP) — Syble Hobbs is still known as the Rattlesnake Lady, even though she no longer hunts snakes. "That was my CB handle," Hobbs said. "I've got snake stuff in every state of the union and overseas... No two hides are exactly alike."

Although her hobby shop is no longer open, she loves making belts, buckles, purses, hat bands, billfolds and other items out of the hides.

"I'm fixing to cover me a pair of boots. Whatever somebody wants, I try to make it," she said.

The 70-year-old widow is not running low on hides.

"I've got an icebox full of hides," she said, estimating the number at about 200.

"I skinned out a snake the other night that a couple of boys killed on the road and brought to me," Hobbs said recently. "People bring me snakes they've killed all during the summer if they're coming this way, or they'll call if they run over a snake and tell me where it's at on the road so I can pick it up."

She said she and her husband, the late Wilbur Hobbs, used to go snake hunting in the spring with two other couples.

"To start with we'd just kill the snakes, but we started catching them and making stuff out of the hides in '65."

"I ordered tanning formulas from here to yonder before I got one that I liked," she said. She orders leather "by the side" and cuts out the pieces to back her work.

She used to sell her snake skin crafts from a hobby shop that also featured her ceramic and crochet work. She gave up ceramics when she hurt her back, and the hobby shop closed in 1988.

"Now if someone wants something, they call or write Syble Hobbs and I get it, or write to the Rattlesnake Lady and I get that too," she said.

Four indicted on charges of illegally soliciting lawsuits

EDINBURG (AP) — Ruben Sandoval, counsel for the League of United Latin American Citizens, was one of four people indicted on charges of illegally promoting lawsuits and soliciting business after the state's worst school bus accident, court officials said Monday.

News of Sandoval's indictment brought an angry response from LULAC president Jose Garcia de Lara, who called the charge the result of a "vendetta" by a "mean-spirited" district attorney and disgruntled lawyers.

The four were indicted on barratry charges last Friday, but their names were not revealed until Monday.

The three lawyers and a secretary are accused of illegally soliciting business from survivors and relatives of victims of a school bus wreck that killed 21 junior and senior high school students in the South Texas city of Alton last Sept. 21.

Dozens of people have sued Valley Coca Cola Bottling Co. Inc., whose truck ran into the school bus at an intersection and forced the bus into a water-filled pit.

The charge against Sandoval brought an angry reaction from Jose Garcia de Lara, LULAC president.

"He is innocent, he is innocent, he is innocent, and I know this for a fact," de Lara said at a news conference Monday afternoon.

Hidalgo County District Attorney Rene Guerra said a grand jury began an investigation after officials heard that attorneys or their agents were trying to drum up business at wakes, hospitals and funeral homes. Some families received letters of condolence with attorneys' business cards attached, he said. More indictments are expected, Guerra said Monday.

Sandoval and a delegation of LULAC officials went to the lower Rio Grande Valley after the accident, following reports that some attorneys were attempting to overcharge for their services.

When Sandoval's law firm was hired to represent two of the victims' families, officials from the McAllen LULAC office accused him of taking advantage of his position with the civil rights organization to get business for his practice.

De Lara said Monday that Sandoval's mission for LULAC

was finished when he took on the lawsuits. "He had long (finished) his duty that we in LULAC had sent him down there to take," said de Lara. He blamed the indictment of Sandoval on "an unscrupulous district attorney," as well as some "malcontents" within the LULAC organization in the Valley.

"The district attorney is a mean-spirited individual who has a vendetta against LULAC and its officials," de Lara said.

"He is innocent, he is innocent, he is innocent, and I know this for a fact... He had long (finished) his duty that we in LULAC had sent him down there to take... The district attorney is a mean-spirited individual who has a vendetta against LULAC and its officials."

— Jose Garcia de Lara, LULAC president

Sandoval was indicted along with McAllen attorney Leo Pruneda, Pharr attorney Mauro Reyna III and Reyna's secretary Norma Lopez.

Sandoval's attorney Rey Cantu said Sandoval is innocent and is "looking forward to a trial."

Pruneda said he was innocent. Reyna and Lopez left the courthouse without comment Monday. Reyna was out of his office Monday afternoon and did not immediately return a phone call.

State law forbids lawyers from soliciting business or promoting lawsuits. The barratry charge is a misdemeanor on the first offense, and can be a felony under certain circumstances on a second conviction.

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1st Session	7:15
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